

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. Changes of a radical nature are taking place in the ADN. Director Georg Hansen has gone to the Central Committee, in the department of agitation and propaganda. His place has been taken by a woman. Deba Wieland

Mrs. Wieland proposes to change the structure of the ADN, and have the newspapers model themselves on Pravda as to format, content, and kind and style of articles. She has had much experience in party work, but apparently has no knowledge of press work. All her directives so far have been of a strongly political nature, with no understanding of press work itself. She thinks, for example, that the article service of the ADN, which heretofore has been devoted especially to supplying material to the local district newspapers, can be changed; that the 28 district newspapers should be cut off from the ADN, work independently and obtain their own material, and the ADN only supply material from abroad.

2. Hansen has been given what is apparently a very responsible post. He is to be the director of a small central press service which is to be set up. The whole agitation apparatus of the DDR is to be rebuilt from the ground up. The press service under Hansen will have the task of guiding and controlling the entire press, including the so-called middle-class press which heretofore has been handled with velvet gloves. It was given directives, but it interpreted them much as it pleased. This is to be changed. Now, a conference is held in the ADN every day at 8 a.m., at which the several editorial departments report what information was given the press, which papers printed it and which did not. These reports are analyzed by Hansen, and papers which did not publish the important ADN reports are disciplined and warned to expect stiffer regulations and controls in the future.

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3. The Information Office is not being dissolved all at once. Individual departments have been liquidated gradually. It is not yet clear just how it will be merged into the press office of the Prime Ministry. Some departments of the Information Office already have been taken over by the press office; what will happen to others is not yet determined. Apparently the work of the press office will not be very strictly defined. It will give official reports directly to the press, and exercise some of the former control functions of the Information Office, but generally in a secondary way. The main controls will be in Hansen's hands.
4. Hansen possesses the confidence of the party in an odd way. Proceedings had been started, on several grounds, to call him before a party court. That he fell up instead of down is probably to be explained by his close ties with Karlshorst, his Russian marriage, and his still existing friendships in Moscow. He was cleared of the proceedings that were started and given the chief press direction.
5. Some 30 or 35 members of the Information Office already have been brought into the ADN. They are working mostly in the German service, the Berlin service, and the department of economics. New people have been appointed in other departments, and Mrs. Wieland brought a few people with her, the principal of whom is one Schauer (fau). Schauer's previous activities are unknown. He is working for the present with Mrs. Wieland and Max Kahane, and it looks as if he were to replace Kahane. Schauer is the type of a party theorist.
6. [REDACTED]
7. A party proceeding is being prepared against Schreiber (fau), but on what grounds is not apparent, unless lack of activity and ability. Albert Norden's sphere of authority is greatly restricted and his work is being sharply criticized. The feeling against Kempff has lessened; he appears to have consolidated his position with Mrs. Wieland by collecting and bringing to her material against Kahane, and he probably will keep his post at Kahane's expense. Rudolph Herrstadt continues as chief editor of Neues Deutschland; apparently there is nothing against him and his authority will be greater rather than less. Kurt Blecha, from the Information Office, apparently will stay. He has been transferred, with his entire department, to the Press Office, where he exercises the same functions as formerly.
8. One accompaniment of the reorganization in the ADN has been the dismissal of a number of West Berlin employees. One department lost five, including two expert translators difficult to replace and three who could write Russian.

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